

THEY
TOLD ME I
JUST NEED
TO GET
SOME BED-
REST.

I'LL
BE ABLE
TO LEAVE
IN ABOUT
TEN DAYS.

HUH...

RIKA-
CHAN, I WAS
SURPRISED TO
HEAR YOU'RE
IN THE
HOSPITAL.

ARE YOU
REALLY SURE
YOU'RE OKAY?
OKAY?

SOMETHING
IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO
CALL IN AN
EMERGENCY
MEETING OF
THE CLUB...

SO,
WHAT DID
YOU WANT TO
DISCUSS?

I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
THAT THE
FIRST TIME
WE'RE
SEEING YOU
IN SO LONG
IS IN A
HOSPITAL
OF ALL
PLACES.

BUT
I'M RELIEVED
TO HEAR YOU'RE
DOING ALL
RIGHT, RIKACHAN.

ACTUALLY...



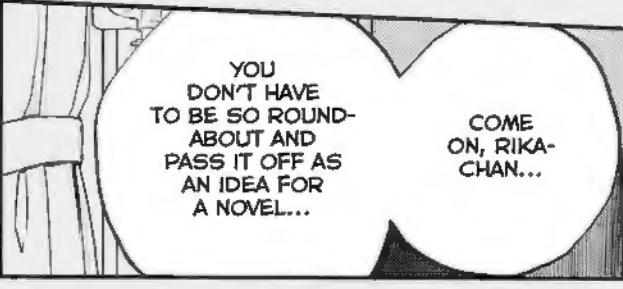
ORIGINAL WORK: RYUKISHIO7
MANGA: KEI NATSUMI





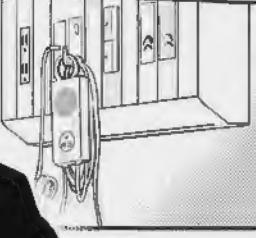
CAN
YOU ALL
STILL
LISTEN
TO MY
NONSENSE
WITHOUT
LAUGHING
AT ME?

BUT
NOW, AS
ADULTS,

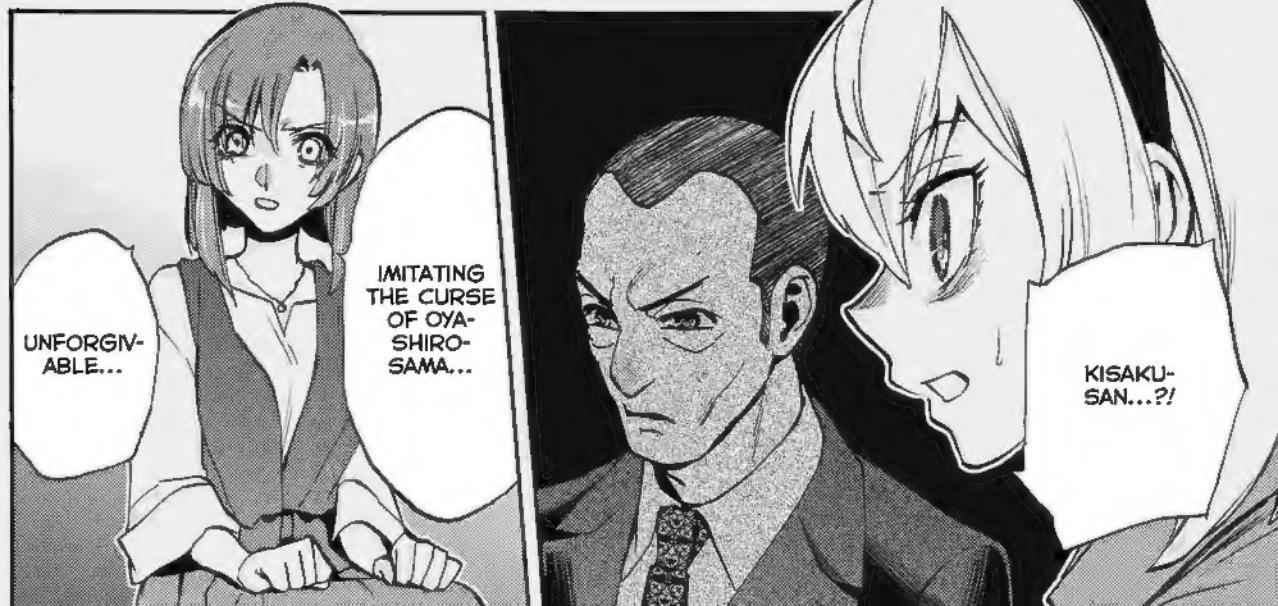


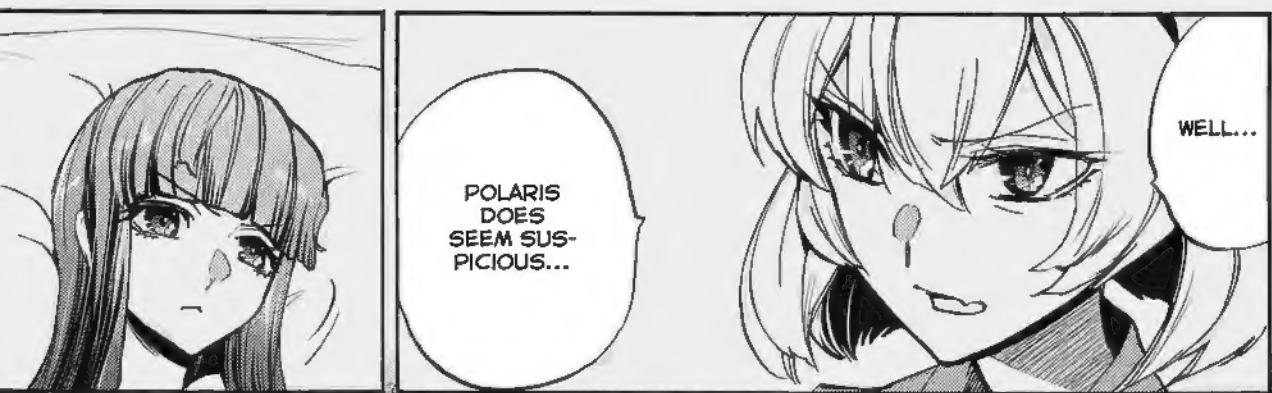
YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO BE SO ROUND-
ABOUT AND
PASS IT OFF AS
AN IDEA FOR
A NOVEL...

COME
ON, RIKA-
CHAN...











BUT THERE'S NO TELLING IF THAT'S TRUE, IT COULD'VE EVEN BEEN SOMETHING THEY STAGED THEMSELVES.

ON THE CONTRARY, POLARIS THEMSELVES CLAIMED THEY WERE FACING HARASSMENT FROM HINAMIZAWA...

BUT THEY PERSISTENTLY DENIED HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF IT.

MY HUSBAND AND FATHER-IN-LAW HAVE BEEN GRILLING THE POLARIS REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT IT.

I FEEL SORRY FOR PUTTING THIS ALL ON KEITAROU...

THE SITUATION IS GRAYER THAN I ASSUMED...

THIS IS GETTING QUITE COMPLICATED...

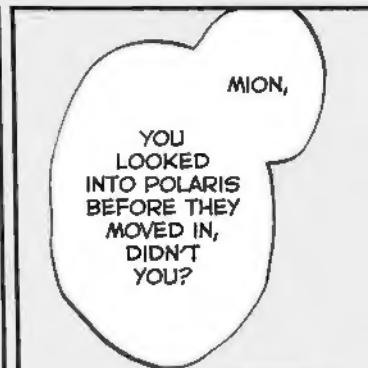
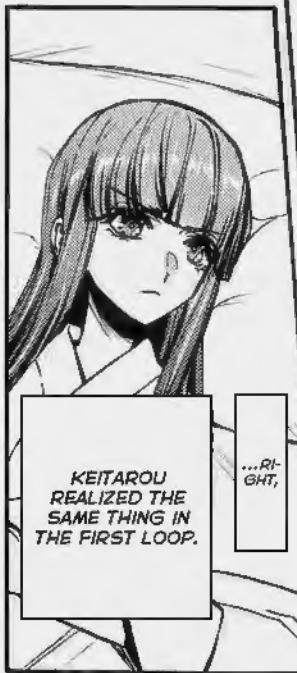
I DON'T THINK POLARIS WOULD EVER CAUSE AN INCIDENT LIKE THAT.

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE...

THAT'S HOW MUCH ANTI-POLARIS SENTIMENT HAS SPREAD AMONGST THE VILLAGERS.

IF ANY SORT OF INCIDENT HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA RIGHT NOW, I THINK EVERYONE WOULD BLAME POLARIS...

...AND THEN THEY'D PRESSURE THEM TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE.



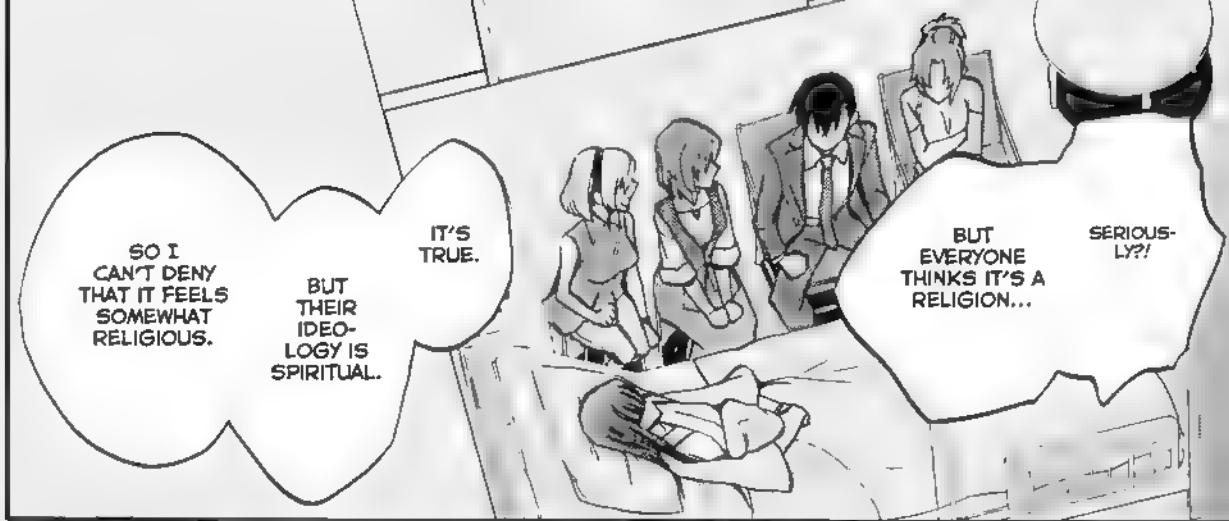
FIRST
OF
ALL...

THEY
PAY
TAXES.

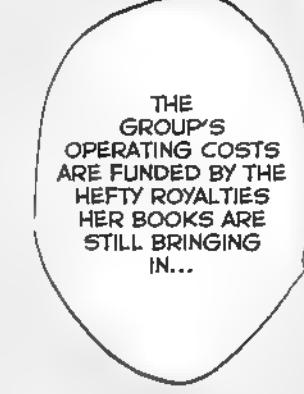
THEY'RE A
LEGITIMATE
PROTECTION
GROUP FOR
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
VICTIMS.

THE
POLARIS FAMILY
SOCIETY IS NOT
CLASSIFIED AS
A RELIGIOUS
GROUP...

HUH?

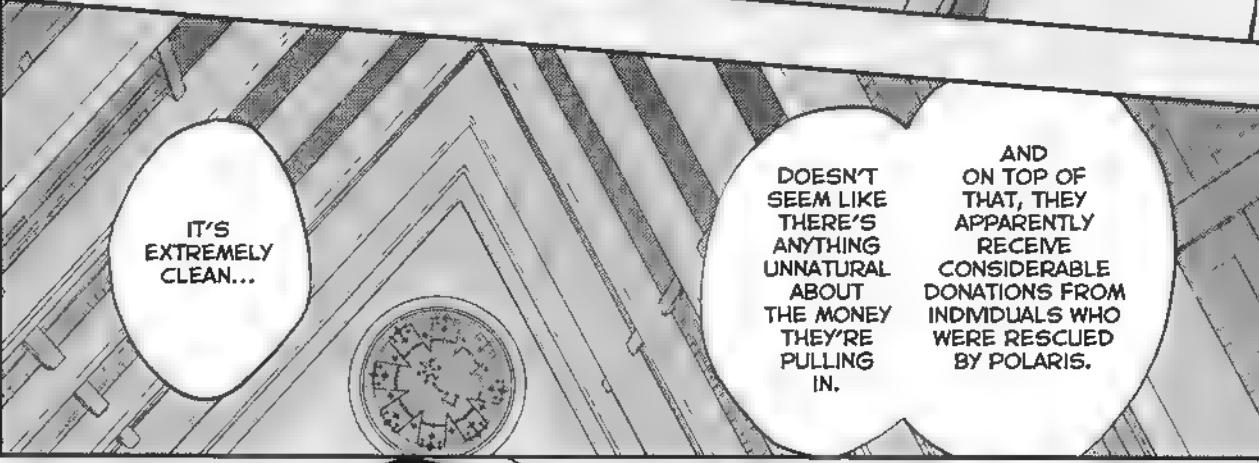






THE GROUP'S OPERATING COSTS ARE FUNDED BY THE HEFTY ROYALTIES HER BOOKS ARE STILL BRINGING IN...

HER BOOKS WERE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THEM THAT PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER AND FORMED A SUPPORT GROUP...



IT'S EXTREMELY CLEAN...

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING UNNATURAL ABOUT THE MONEY THEY'RE PULLING IN.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, THEY APPARENTLY RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE RESCUED BY POLARIS.



THE PEOPLE WHO DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS ACT LIKE THEY'RE THE VICTIM.

SEEMS POSSIBLE.

IS THERE A CHANCE THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST THEM ARE FROM THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PERPETRATORS TRYING TO CRITICIZE THEM?

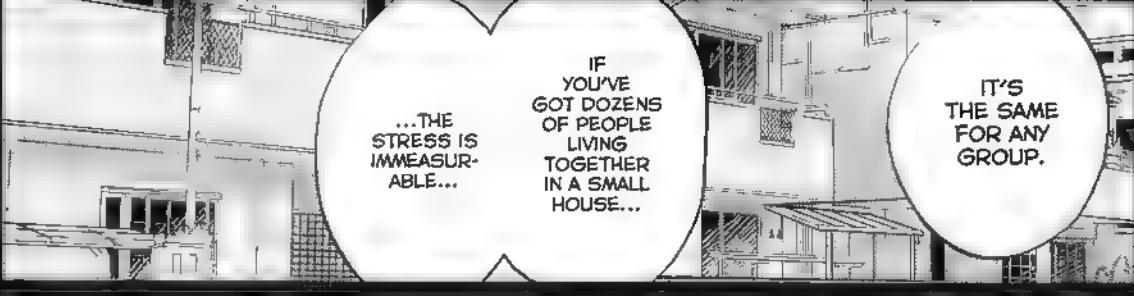
IN WHICH CASE...





SO,
MOM
SAID..

WHEN
YOUR
ORGANIZATION
GETS BIG
ENOUGH,
SOME PEOPLE
ARE GOING TO
MAKE TROUBLE.



...THE
STRESS IS
IMMEASUR-
ABLE...

IF
YOU'VE
GOT DOZENS
OF PEOPLE
LIVING
TOGETHER
IN A SMALL
HOUSE...

IT'S
THE SAME
FOR ANY
GROUP.



NOT
ENOUGH
TO HAVE
TROUBLE
AMONGST
NEIGHBORS.

EVEN IF
ALL THE
PEOPLE LIKE
US SCATTERED
ACROSS JAPAN CAME
TOGETHER, IT
WOULD STILL
BE A SMALL
NUMBER.

OUT
HERE IN THE
COUNTRYSIDE,
WE HAVE MORE
LAND, VACANT
HOMES, WATER,
AND AIR THAN
WE KNOW WHAT
TO DO WITH.



IT
WOULD BE
AN AMICABLE
ARRANGEMENT
FOR BOTH
PARTIES,
YES?

IF WE
COULD
JUST
COEXIST
PEACE-
FULLY,







ACTUALLY,

I AGREED
TO HAVE A
SECRET MEETING
WITH THE NEXT
HEAD OF THE
KIMIYOSHIS...
KISAKU-SAN...

ON
THE NIGHT
OF WATANA-
GASHI THIS
YEAR,





BUT...

IT
MAKES
SENSE,
TO AN
EXTENT...

IS
THAT
WHAT
THIS IS?

THE
PEOPLE
ATTENDING
THIS SECRET
MEETING ARE
BEING ATTACKED
AND MADE
SACRIFICES
FOR THE
CURSE...

I
SEE.

I
WAS THE
ONE WHO GOT
KILLED...

ACTUAL-
LY, MION...

IN THE
CASE WHERE
I WARNED YOU,
KEIICHI, KISAKU,
AND HIS AIDE...





I'M SURE
THAT MEETING
WAS A FARCE
TO DRAW OUT
VICTIMS FOR
THE CURSE.

SO THE
CULPRIT IS
ONE OF THE
FOUR POTENTIAL
VICTIMS...



THAT
WOULD BE
ENOUGH TO
COMPLETE
THE CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-
SAMA.

IF ONE
OF THEM
KILLED THE
OTHER AND
THEN RAN
AWAY,

SATOKO-
CHAN'S
HUSBAND, AND
HIS ASSISTANT.

SO OUR
SUSPICION
SHOULD
BE ON THE
REMAINING
TWO...

IS BECAUSE
YOU GAVE THEM
THAT WARNING,
WHICH MADE
THEM THINK
OUR MURDER
PLANS HAVE
LEAKED.

I
WONDER IF
THE REASON
THEY KILLED
YOU, RIKACHAN,

IMPRESSIVE
AS ALWAYS,
DETECTIVE
RENA...!

THAT, PLUS
THE INTEL
EVERYONE
ELSE HAS
BROUGHT HAS
REALLY OPENED
MY EYES...!

THAT'S
NOT TO
SAY THERE
AREN'T
OTHER
POSSIBILITIES,
THOUGH...

I NEVER
WOULD
HAVE
COME UP
WITH THAT
ON MY
OWN...!

THAT'S
AMAZING,
RENA.

I'd expect
no less of
Rena...

Why do
you look
so proud,
Ker-chan?

I KNEW
I COULD
RELY ON MY
FRIENDS...!

IT
PAINS
ME TO
SUSPECT
YOUR
HUSBAND,
BUT...

I'M
SORRY,
SATOKO-
CHAN...

I...

KISAKU-
SAN AND
HIS AIDE ARE
PROBABLY THE
CULPRITS...

I'M
CLOSER TO MY
HUSBAND THAN
ANYONE...

IT'S
ACTUALLY
ADVAN-
TAGEOUS
IF I CAN BE
THE ONE TO
LOOK INTO
THIS...

IT'S
NOT HARD
TO THINK
EXTREMISTS
USING THE NAME
OF THE CURSE
TO ELIMINATE
THE PEOPLE IN
THEIR WAY WOULD
WANT TO
SACRIFICE POLARIS
SYMPATHIZERS.

PLEASE
DO NOT
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.

THERE
LIKELY ARE
PEOPLE IN THE
VILLAGE WHO
THIRST FOR THE
CURSE OF
OYASHIRO-SAMA
TO HAPPEN
A SECOND
YEAR.

WHAT IS IT?

...BY THE WAY, GETTING BACK ON TOPIC FOR A SEC...

THANKS, SATOKO...

AND YOU CAN LEAVE HIS ASSISTANT TO ME, TOO.



ACCORDING TO KEITAROU IN THE SECOND LOOP,



I HEAR THERE ARE FREQUENT CASES OF HARASSMENT AGAINST THE VILLAGE...

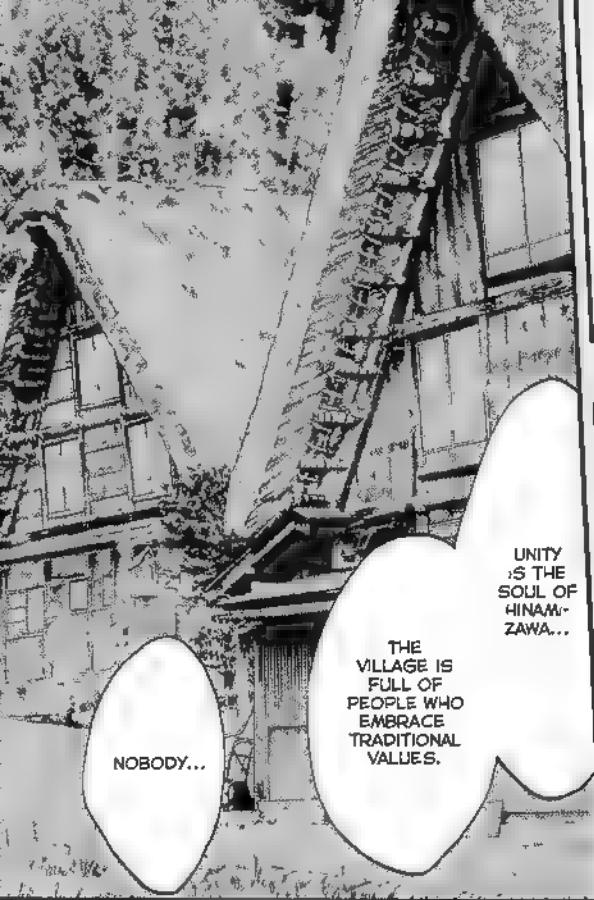
...AB-SURD.

NO WAY, THAT IS...

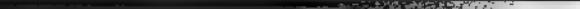
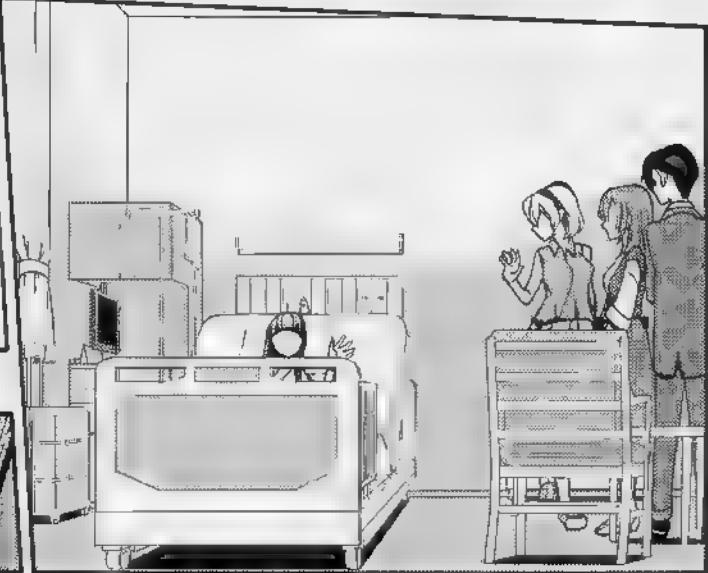
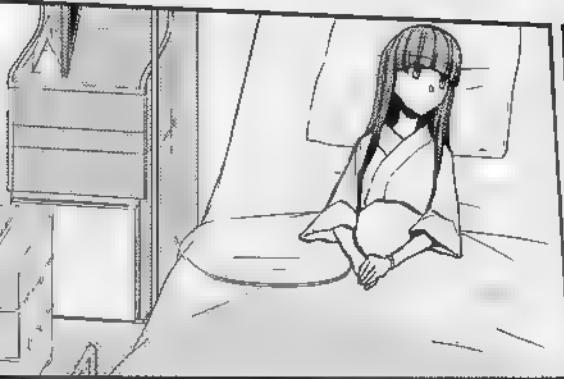
POLARIS IS SUPPOSEDLY BEING VICIOUSLY HARASSED BY HINAMIZAWA, AS WELL...

AND THE OTHER WAY AROUND TOO, THAT THE VILLAGE IS HARASSING POLARIS. IS THERE ANY TRUTH TO THAT?



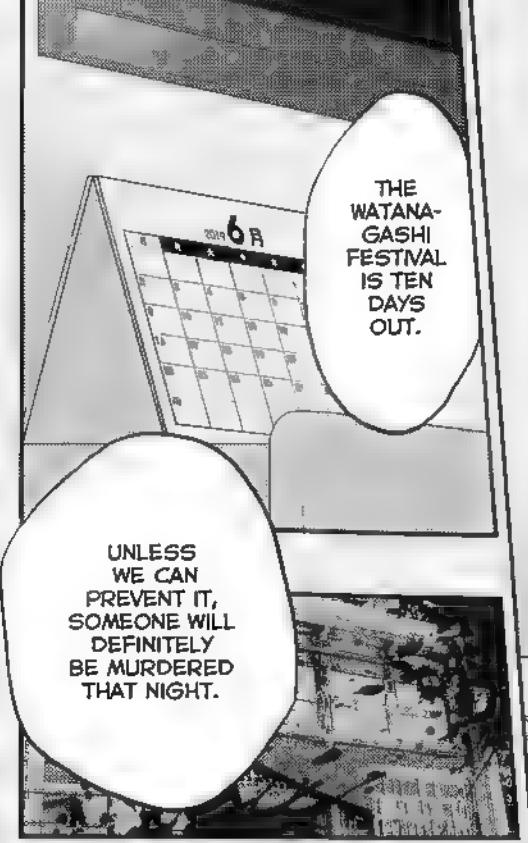






I...
...HAVE
NEVER FELT
AS POWER-
LESS AS I
DO RIGHT
NOW...







DEALING
WITH OLD
TIMERS IN
CONGRESS
ISN'T SO BAD,
BUT...

IT'S
BEEN A
LONG TIME
SINCE I HAD
FRIENDS RELYING
ON ME, SO THIS
HAS GOT ME
FIRED UP,
ALL RIGHT?

IF IT'S
POSSIBLE,
I'D LOVE FOR
US ALL TO GO
TO THE WATANAGASHI
FESTIVAL TOGETHER!
TOGETHER!



COME
ON NOW,
RIKA-
CHAN, YOU
JUST STAY
RIGHT THERE
AND BE OUR
ARMCHAIR
DETECTIVE!



THAT'S
RIGHT! YOU
TAKE IT EASY
AND GET SOME
REST, RIKACHAN!



...OR IF
YOU CAN'T
GET OUT OF
THE HOSPITAL
IN TIME FOR
THAT, HOW
ABOUT WE
ALL GATHER
FOR DRINKS
AT MY PLACE
AFTER?

I'LL
BE SURE
TO ORDER
SOME OF THAT
KIMCHI YOU
LOVE SO
MUCH, RIKA-
CHAN!



YOU
DO
EVERY-
THING
YOU
HAVE
TO
DO...

...TO GET
DISCHARGED
FROM THIS
HOSPITAL!



WE
WILL DO
ALL THAT WE
CAN TO WIN
BACK OUR
PEACEFUL
DAYS!



TO PROTECT
MY BELOVED
FRIENDS, AND
THE KIDS'
EVERYDAY LIFE...!

WE
ABSOLUTELY
MUST PREVENT
THIS TRAGEDY!

TEN DAYS...

...UNTIL THE
WATANAGASHI
FESTIVAL.

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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